

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-8 and 11 are pending in this application, Claims 2 and 11 are amended, and Claims 1, 9, and 10 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 9, 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Okajima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,636,262, herein Okajima) in view of Takei (U.S. Patent No. 5,353,058); and Claims 2-8 and 11 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, Claims 2 and 11 are rewritten in independent form, without the introduction of new matter. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 2 and 11 (and dependent Claims 3-8) are in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, in view of the previous discussion, no further issues are believed to be outstanding and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Surinder Sachar

Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)